



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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Budget for a Better Minnesota: Higher Education

Access to Higher Education for a Competitive Workforce

Access to education is absolutely crucial for better job opportunities, higher incomes, and more fulfilling lives for Minnesotans. That is why the Governor's budget makes a significant investment in making college more affordable and improving our state colleges and universities. By investing \$240 million in higher education, with \$80 million going to direct financial aid for students, the Governor's budget brings the dream of a higher education within reach for even more Minnesotans.

A \$240 Million Investment in Higher Education

» **\$80 million in direct financial aid.** State financial assistance has not kept pace with rising tuition and the other increased costs of post-secondary education. That is why the Governor's budget makes a significant investment in the State Grant program. This program currently serves over 95,000 students and the Governor's proposal would expand it even further

- **Helping Over 5,000 Students.** The Governor's budget adjusts the State Grant Program to ensure that middle class students also have the help they need to afford higher education. This measure will provide financial assistance to an additional 5,000 Minnesota students.
- **An Average \$300 More Per Student.** The Governor's budget adjusts the current State Grant Program formula to better reflect all of the costs of a higher education. Between rising tuition and the costs of living associated with going to school, the current system is inadequate. On average, the Governor's budget provides each State Grant Program recipient an additional \$300 per year. Some students could see an increase as high as \$1,470.

» **\$80 Million for the MnSCU System.** State funds for MnSCU were cut by over 14% in the last budget. The Governor's budget makes significant investments in our state's colleges and universities to restore those cuts, keep education affordable, and our workforce competitive.

» **\$80 Million for the University of Minnesota.** State funds were cut by over 14% for the University of Minnesota in the last budget. The Governor is strongly committed to supporting the University of Minnesota and its vital mission of research, innovation and education; and he is committed to making certain Minnesota tax dollars are being used for that purpose. In light of recent reports questioning substantial growth in the University's administrative budget and legislative leaders' request for a response by March 15, the Governor is holding \$80 million in abeyance for tuition relief and research and innovation improvements at the University requests, pending receipt of that review. He will decide upon the allocation of these funds in his supplemental budget which will be released after the February 2013 forecast.